to 7th June'97. The price application for crude oil imports from Iraq is based on the UN approved pricing basis for Far East customers. The price is market related and linked to the daily price quotations of Dubai and Oman crude oils published by platts crude oil marketwire.

All imports of crude oil are made at market related prices.

Indian Market Demographics – The Consumer Class

1916. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have studied the report of the National Council of Applied Economic Research titled "Indian Market Demographics – The Consumer Class" and are in agreement with its findings; and

(b) if not, the areas in which the Government have reservations regarding the findings of this report particularly in respect of income distribution in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The study on "Indian Market Demographics – The Consumer Class", conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), is based on market information survey of the households. It provides demographic information about households classified by income, and ownership and purchases of selected consumer durables.

The Planning Commission utilises the quinquennial household consumer expenditure survey data of the National Sample Survey Organisation, to estimate the incidence of poverty. Although the two sets of data are not comparable, (since the NCAER) data pertains to income and the National Sample Survey data pertains to consumption), the following points of discrepancy are noted;

(i) The NCAER study uses an estimate of population of 916 million in 1993-94, whereas the Planning Commission estimate of population which based on the Expert Group on Population Projection is 891 million.

(ii) The size of households in the two studies are also different. The NCAER study uses an average household size of 6 for the lower income category, whereas in the National Sample Survey, the size of the household in the lowest income category is between 5.43 and 5.67 in rural areas and between 5.64 and 5.82 in urban areas.

(iii) The study divides the entire population in five broad income groups with annual household income as :

(a) Low	:	upto Rs. 20,000
(b) Lower Middle	:	Rs. 20,001 to Rs. 40,000
(c) Middle	:	Rs. 40,001 to Rs. 62,000
(d) Upper Middle	:	Rs. 62,001 to Rs. 86,000
(e) High	:	Above Rs. 86,000

The study does not spell out the basis on which these income ranges are constructed. However, the income limit of the Low income group does not correspond to the definition of the poverty line as accepted by the Task Force and Expert Group, which are specified in terms of per capita consumption expenditure necessary to meet the average calorie intake of 2400 per capita per day in rural areas and 2100 per capita per day in urban areas. These poverty lines are annual per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 2788 in rural areas and Rs. 3217 in urban areas. Annual household income of Rs. 20,000 in the NCAER study is equivalent to annual per capita income of Rs. 3333. Therefore, not all the households in the Low income category are poor, as per the generally accepted definition of poverty. Besides, nothing is contained in the study which shows that the low income limit corresponds to any defined poverty line.

Officers of A.I. Services

1917. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the IAS personnel are given more weightage in promotion etc. as compared to the other All India Services;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the officials belonging to non-IAS services have protested against this practice; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) No, Sir. The I.A.S. personnel do not get any weightage in promotions as compared to the other all India Services. Their promotion in various grades is governed by statutory rules and well laid-out executive instructions.

(b) to (d) Do not arise, in view of the answer to (a) above.

Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme in Maharashtra

1918. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total released by the Central Government to Maharashtra during the past three years for implementing accelerated urban water supply programme.

(b) the details of achievements made during the above period;

(c) the details the funds sought for the current year and funds approved; and

(d) the fresh proposals sent by the State Government and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) A total of Rs. 214.16 lakhs has been released to the Govt. of Maharashtra during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 for implementing 10 water supply schemes sanctioned under the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme.

(b) As per the information available as on 31.3.96, the State Government is reported to have incurred an expenditure of Rs. 23.38 lakhs.

(c) In the current financial year no specific request has been made by the State of Maharashtra. The State Government of Maharashtra, as against its matching share of Rs. 214.16 lakhs has so far released only Rs. 100 lakhs under the programme. However, during the current year under the programme, an additional amount of Rs. 85 lakhs has already been released to the State Government by the Central.

(d) The Detailed Project Reports for Water Supply schemes for 18 towns have been received from the State of Maharashtra, one of which has been examined and comments conveyed to the State Government. Approval of other schemes is subject to the release of matching share by the State Government, expenditure incurred on already sanctioned scheme and availability of funds.

Master Plan

1919. SHRI K. PRADHANI :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee of Delhi Legislature has observed that the Delhi Master Plan is out of date and is more theoritical than practical;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to review and revise the Master Plan in the light of the said Committees's observation;

(c) whether building bye-laws of Delhi are also being revised;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the DDA has suggested some changes in the Master Plan; and

(f) if so, the details thereof including the proposal of the Government to include or exclude them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Constant monitoring and review of the plan is made to ensure effective implementation of Master Plan. MPD-2001 is also under review. A Steering Committee was constituted in August, 1994 headed by Chairman, Delhi Urban Art Commission for guiding the review of Master Plan and to suggest measures to enhance its effectiveness. The Steering Committee finalised its report in September, 1996. MPD-2001 is proposed to be updated in the light of the recommendations of the Steering Committee.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In pursuance to the order of Delhi High Court dated 27.5.92 directing the Central Government to reframe Building Bye-laws, 1983, a High Powered Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (UD) reviewed the Building Bye-laws and the draft of the revised Building Bye-laws was filed before the Delhi High Court. In the meantime, Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 was amended vesting the powers to frame and finalise the Bye-laws with the Central Government instead of the local bodies. Final order was passed by Delhi High Court on 10.2.95 directing the Central Government to finalise the new Building Bye-laws as early as possible. In pursuance of these orders, copies of the draft Bye-laws were forwarded to NDMC and MCD for issue of public notice inviting objections/suggestions in regard to the provisions of the proposed bye-laws in terms of the provisions contained in the DMC Act, 1957 and NDMC Act, 1994. The public notice have since been issued by NDMC and MCD. The Government of NCT of Delhi has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. V.K. Malhotra, M.P. to examine the objections/suggestions. The Committee is in the process of finalising these bye-laws.

(e) and (f) As in (b) above.

[Translation]

ISRO Espionage Case

1920. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the enquiry into the Espionage case at ISRO, Trivandrum, has been completed;

(b) the details of findings therein; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?